

**SHB 2740 - H AMD 862**

By Representative Orcutt

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

4 (a) Local governments are the appropriate place for land use  
5 changes to be considered and for ordinances to be implemented that  
6 relate to the clearing and grading of land, local services, and  
7 critical areas;

8 (b) The department of natural resources implements the forest  
9 practices act and the forest practices rules;

10 (c) The department of ecology is responsible for protection of  
11 water quality;

12 (d) It is in the best interests of the state that forest landowners  
13 keep their land in forestry;

14 (e) Working forests are vital to the economic and environmental  
15 health of the state;

16 (f) Processes are in place which allow a landowner to convert  
17 forest land to another use or maintain the option to convert forest  
18 land at a later date;

19 (g) Laws governing conversion of forest land to other uses and  
20 regulatory jurisdiction over such forest practices have been in place  
21 for more than eight years; and

22 (h) It is clear that at times in some places in the state these  
23 laws, and associated administrative processes, have unnecessarily  
24 complicated landowners' ability to carry out forest practices.

25 (2) The department of natural resources and the department of  
26 ecology shall work with a statewide association of counties and other  
27 participants in the process leading to the forests and fish law to  
28 determine how the current laws and processes regulating forest  
29 practices and conversion of forest land to a nonforestry use could be  
30 improved by clarifying roles and responsibilities, eliminating

1 duplicative regulation of the same activity, making any needed  
2 adjustments to regulatory requirements, and simplifying pathways  
3 leading to regulatory decisions while maintaining current standards of  
4 environmental protection.

5 (3) The evaluation required by this section must include specific  
6 examination of laws and administrative processes governing:

7 (a) Interactions among the department of natural resources, the  
8 department of ecology, and local governments in situations where both  
9 the state and local governments have regulatory responsibilities  
10 related to the same forestry-related activity;

11 (b) Moratoriums on the conversion of forest land;

12 (c) Conversion harvest option plans;

13 (d) Determination of lead agency status pursuant to the state  
14 environmental policy act; and

15 (e) Application, processing, and recording fees.

16 (4) The department of natural resources must provide a report to  
17 the appropriate committees of the legislature by October 31, 2006,  
18 including recommendations for changes to laws and administrative  
19 processes.

20 (5) This section expires on July 1, 2007."

21 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Strikes all existing language and replaces it with a  
mandate to the department of natural resources and the department of  
ecology to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the regulation  
of forest practices and the conversion of forest land into nonforestry  
uses.

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